

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IGA-02 EUR-12

EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4132

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 2563

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: GOI REACTION TO DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT ABOUT
DELAY IN AID TALKS

1. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE STORY ON THE US DECISION TO DEALY AID TALKS WITH INDIA HAS BEEN ON THE PRESS SERVICE WIRES FOR TWO DAYS, THE GOI HAS NOT YET MADE ANY COMMENT. A SLANTED ACCOUNT FROM THE SAMACHAR (FORMERLY PTI) CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK RAN ON THE SAMACHAR WIRE MIDDAY FEBRUARY 18 BUT THE STORY WAS "CANCELED" A SHORT WHILE LATER. AN AP STORY ON THE DEFERRAL RAN ON THE SAMACHAR WIRE ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 18 WITH THE NOTATION THAT IT HAD BEEN CLEARED BY THE CENSOR. AGAIN A SHORT WHILE LATER THE STORY WAS CANCELED. AS A RESULT THE INDIAN PRESS WOULD HAVE CARRIED NO WORD WHATSOEVER ON THE DEFERRAL HAD

NOT A BRIEF REFERENCE TO ITS EFFECT ON THE STOCK MARKET MADE A SMALL STORY ON THE FINANCIAL PAGE OF THE INDIAN EXPRESS.

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2. WE HEAR FROM THE AP THAT THEY EXPECTED A GOI

STATEMENT ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 18 BUT NONE WAS MADE. THE MEA BRIEFING ON THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 19 BULGED WITH PRESS ATTENDEES INCLUDING THE TASS REPRESENTATIVE WHO HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY MOSCOW TO GET AN INDIAN COMMENT ON THE STORY AND WHO HAD THUS FAR BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. THE MEA SPOKESMAN OFFERED ONLY A "NO COMMENT" TO QUERIES ON THE AID DEFERRAL.

3. COMMENT: THE ONLY SAFE COMMENT TO MAKE ON THIS AFFAIR IS THAT THE GOI IS HAVING DIFFICULTY DECIDING HOW TO HANDLE THE ISSUE. WE EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE AN INDIAN COMMENT BUT WE DO NOT CARE TO PREDICT ITS NATURE.
SAXBE

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